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Gruening Asks Watchdog Unit for CIA

By JACK STEELE
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WASHINGTON, Oct. 4.

Sen. Ernest Gruening (D., Alaska) wants Congress to move quickly to set up a "watchdog" committee to investigate reports of the Central Intelligence Agency's "obstinate disregard of orders" in South Viet Nam.

Gruening, in making this demand to the Senate yesterday, cited a dispatch by Scripps-Howard reporter Richard Starnes disclosing that CIA officials in Viet Nam

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twice have refused to carry out orders of United States Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge.

He said the report confirmed the "grave concern" felt by many members of Congress about the free-wheeling, unsupervised activities of the CIA in many parts of the world.

Gruening and Sen. George Smathers (D., Fla.) are co-sponsors of a resolution to create a House-Senate committee to ride herd on the CIA. The proposal has been buried in the Senate Rules Committee.

Gruening said the Starnes report had recalled an experience he had on a visit to an

unnamed General American country last year.

He said the American ambassador there told him the CIA had a "well-financed" mission there which did not keep him informed of its activities, which were frequently "at cross-purposes" with State Department policies.

"This would appear to be a repetition of that situation in Viet Nam," he said.

Recalling he had said last February that "the security agencies of this nation should be under some measure of Congressional control," Gruening added:

"This has become more apparent daily."

Rules Committee Chairman B. Everett Jordan (D., N. C.) reported his group had held no hearings and taken no action on the Gruening-Smathers resolution.

He said it had been referred to a subcommittee headed by Sen. Carl Hayden (D., Ariz.). Hayden also heads the Senate Appropriations Committee, which has a three-man subcommittee that passes on all CIA funds.

The proposed "watchdog" committee would be composed of members of the Senate and House Appropriations, Armed Services and Government Operations committees.